

I can

I can't make the
world peaceful
I can't stall tanks
from roaring down roads
I can't prevent children
from having to hide in bunkers
I can't convince the news to
stop turning war into a video game
I can't silence the sound of bombs
tearing neighbourhoods apart
I can't turn a guided missile
into a bouquet of flowers
I can't make a warmonger
have an ounce of empathy
I can't convince ambassadors
to quit playing truth or dare
I can't deflect a sniper's bullet
from turning a wife into a widow
I can't stave off a country being
reduced to ash and rubble
I can't do any of that
the only thing I can do
is love the next person I encounter
without any conditions or strings
to love my neighbour
so fearlessly that
it starts a ripple
that stretches from
one horizon to the next
I can't force peace
on the world
but I can become a force
of peace in the world
because
sometimes all it takes
is a single lit candle
in the darkness
to start a movement
"Lord, make me a candle
of comfort in this world
let me burn with peace"

~ [John Roedel](http://JohnRoedel.com) - A short writer. :johnroedel.com